HOST. Good captain Peesel, be quiet: it is very late, i' faith: I beseek you now, aggravate your choler.

was the author of a play called The Turkish Mahomet and *Hyren* the Fair Greek, which is now lost. One of these jests or rather stories is entitled *How George read a Play-book to a Gentleman*. "There was a gentleman (says the tale) whom God had endued with good living, to maintain his small wit—one that took great delight to have the first hearing of any work that George had done, himself being a writer.—This self-conceited brock had George invited to half a score sheets of paper: whose Christianly pen had *writ Finis* to the famous play of The Turkish Mahomet and *Hyren* the fair Greek:—in Italian called a curtezan: in Spaine, a margarite: in French, un curtain: in English among the barbarous, a *whore*: among the gentles their usual associates, a *punk*.—This fantastick whose brain was made of nought but cork and spunge, came to the cold lodging of Monsieur Peel.—George bids him welcome:—told him he would gladly have his opinion of *his book*.—He willingly condescended and George begins to read, and between every *scene* he would make pauses, and demand his opinion how he liked the carriage of it," &c.

"Have we not Hiren here?" was without doubt a quotation from this play of Peele's, and from the explanation of the word *Hiren* above given, is put with peculiar propriety on the present occasion into the mouth of Pistol. In Eastward Hoe, a comedy by Jonson, Chapman, and Marston, 1605, Quicksilver comes in drunk, and repeats this, and many other verses from dramatick performances of that time:

"** Holla, ye pamper'd jades of Asia!" *[Tamburlaine.]*

"Hast thou not *Hiren* here?"

[Probably *The Turkish Mahomet.*]

"Who cries on murther? lady, was it you?"*

[A Parody on *The Spanish Tragedy.*]

All these lines are printed as quotations in Italicks. In John Day's Law Tricks, quoted by Mr. Steevens in the preceding note, the Prince Polymetes, when he says, "Have we not *Hiren* here?" alludes to a lady then present, whom he imagines to be a harlot.

MALONE.

The notes on this expression have left it a matter of doubt whether Pistol is speaking of his sword or of a woman: but the fact is after all that the word *Hiren* was purposely designed by the author to be ambiguous, though used by Pistol with reference *only* to his sword. When the Hostess replies "There's none such here, do you think I would deny her?" she evidently con-